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JUNE MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, June 11, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the Canadian Church Press; the Chicago Historical Society; the Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia; the New-Jersey Historical Society; the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History; the Young Men's Association of Buffalo, N.Y.; Captain John W. M. Appleton, Fifty-fourth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers; Francis Brown, Esq.; Henry B. Dawson, Esq.; Mr. John F. Eliot; J. Francis Fisher, Esq.; Clement H. Hill, Esq.; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; William A. Johnson, Esq.; Major L. A. H. Latour; John G. Roberts, Esq.; and from Messrs. Amory, Bartlet, Brooks (C.), Dana, Robbins (C.), Sibley, Webb, Wheatland, Whitney, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters of acceptance from Hon. Luther Bradish of New York, and Henry B. Dawson, Esq.

The President communicated the following extracts from a letter recently received by him from Richard Almack, Esq., dated Melford, Suffolk, Eng., 29th April, 1863:—

“How strangely people are linked together. I can connect myself with the Winthrops in a tabular pedigree—and as to Hugh Peters! The Rector of Cavendish, almost adjoining to Melford, is Rev. Robert Godolphin Peter, son of William Peter of Harlyn and

Chiverton in Cornwall. His father married for his second wife the widow of the late Rufus King, mother of the present Rufus King. She is celebrated as a Roman Catholic — Foundress of some new order, and honored by Catholic princes. They are of Cincinnati. The Peters are our friends, and friendly with their step mother. I shall lend them your book. They have early portraits of Sir William Peter, &c., but they disclaim Hugh as their *kinsman* — which I tell them is ungrateful, as he saved the life of their ancestor. The Peters have lately succeeded to part of the great personalty of Lady Miller, daughter and coheiress of the last male Beauchamp of Pengreep in Cornwall, — a family with which my son in law, Henry Williams, is connected. His great grandmother was a Beauchamp of Pengreep.”

“Hugh Peter was of a family driven from Antwerp on account of their religion — of the name of *Dykewoode*. Thomas Dykewoode assumed the name of Peter, and his son Thomas Dykewoode Peter was a merchant at Fowey in Cornwall, and married Martha daughter of ‘John Treffry Esq. of Place,’ and their son was the celebrated ‘Hugh Peter.’ Deborah Treffry, sister of Martha, married Henry Peter, Esq., M. P. for Fowey, in the first Parliament of James I., who was imprisoned by Cromwell for his loyalty, and obtained his release through the influence of the celebrated Hugh, (his cousin in reality, although Hugh had no blood of Peter). The affinity to this ancient family appears to be the only reason for assuming the name. They have a common ancestor with Lord *Petre*, and Hugh seals with the same arms. See pedigree of Peter of Harlyn and Chiverton, Cornwall, in Burke’s Commoners.”

The President read the following letter from Colonel James W. Sever, Secretary of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, presenting to the Society original letters from Josiah Quincy, Esq., Professor John Winthrop, Rev. Dr. Samuel Cooper, and General Joseph Warren, addressed to Dr. Franklin : —

BOSTON, June 7, 1863.

THE SECRETARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

SIR, — I have the honor herewith to enclose to you a copy of a vote of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, passed at their

last annual meeting, together with the several letters therein referred to.

In what way these letters came into possession of the donors in England, I am not officially advised; but from a conversation with Mr. Edmund T. Hastings, late of Medford, through whom they were presented to our society, I learned they were found in the secret drawer of a bureau said to have been used by Dr. Franklin when in London.

Steps have been taken to trace their history; and the result, if successful, will be communicated to you.

With high respect, I am your obedient servant,

JAMES W. SEVER,
Sec. Mass. Soc. of the Cincinnati.

Extract from the Records of the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, July 4, 1862.

“On motion of James W. Sever, the following preamble and vote were unanimously adopted:—

“*Whereas* William H. Oatley of Wroxeter, and William H. Wood of Shrewsbury, Eng., presented through our late member, Edmund Trowbridge Hastings, to this society, several letters from Josiah Quincy, John Winthrop, Samuel Cooper, and Joseph Warren, dated in March and April, 1775, addressed to Dr. Franklin in London, of much historical interest, but not at all connected with the Society of the Cincinnati; therefore—

“*Voted*, That the Secretary be authorized and directed to present them to the Massachusetts Historical Society, as a more appropriate place of deposit.”

A true copy from the record.

JAMES W. SEVER, *Secretary.*

Voted, That the thanks of this Society be presented to the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, for their very valuable and acceptable contribution to our archives, this day received through the courteous instrumentality of Colonel James W. Sever.

The following are the letters referred to in the communication of Colonel Sever:—

BRAINTREE, March 25th, 1775.

HONOURED SIR, — My dear Son has repeatedly acknowledged your friendly Reception and Patronage of him, since his Arrival in London. Be pleased, therefore, to accept of my gratefull Sense of your Goodness to him ; with my ardent Wishes, that your united Endeavors to preserve your Native Country from impending Ruin may be attended with Success.

You would hardly be persuaded to believe, did not melancholy Experience evince the Truth of it, that such a number of infamous WRETCHES could be found upon the Continent, as are now group'd together in Boston, under Pretence of flying thither from the Rage of popular Fury ; when every Body knows, and their own Consciences cannot but dictate to them, that all they aim at, is, to recommend themselves to the first Offices of Trust and Power, in Case the Plan of subverting the present Constitution, and establishing a despotic Government in it's Stead, can be successfully carried into Execution : — Some of them are already gratified, with lucrative Posts and Pensions, as a Reward for prostituting their venal Pens, in Defence of the arbitrary and violent Measures of an abandoned A — ; which, doubtless, stimulates the rest to exert their little Abilities to effect the Ruin of their Country ; in Hopes, they also, may have an opportunity to riot in the Spoils of it : — May that all perfect *Being*, who governs the Universe, turn their councils into *Foolishness* ; and cause them to repent of their complicated Crimes, or to experience the fatal Consequences of their wicked Apostacy !

The News Papers will discover to you, the shamefull Artifices they have been practicing, to flatter the Hopes, and alarm the Fears of their fellow Citizens ; and thereby not only to disunite and divide, but discourage them from pursuing those Measures which the Wisdom of the Continent has devised and recommended, as most salutary and effectual for our Preservation and Security : — But, happily for our dear native Country, Providence has been graciously pleased to raise up such powerfull Advocates, in Defence of our Claim to be exempted from parliamentary Legislation, by Arguments drawn from those fundamental Principles of natural and civil Law, which form the *Basis* of the English Constitution, as must be sufficient to inform the most ignorant, and convince the most obstinate, of the justness of our Claim, and therefore cannot be invalidated, by the futile Productions of those mercenary Scribblers, that have appeared in Opposition to it.

May I be permitted, upon this Occasion, without Offence, to present to your View the following Queries ; as containing my Sentiments upon the present gloomy Aspect of our publick Affairs : — What gave Rise to them was, a number of Queries which were published in Drapers Paper of the 14th of last November ; but, my Diffidence prevented mine from being published.

Is not human Happiness the End of every good Government ?

Can the Happiness of a People be secure and permanent, where the Government is despotic ?

Is it not, therefore, absolutely necessary, that, the supreme Magistrate should be restrained by Law from doing evil or becoming despotic ; whilst his Power to Good should be as extensive as his Capacity ?

Is not the British Constitution guarded against Despotism, by making the Minister answerable for his Sovereign's mal-Administration ?

If an abandoned Ministry, by Bribery and Corruption, had procured a Law to be made, whereby the Constitution was subverted, and the Sovereigns Power rendered absolute, would the People be obliged to submit to it ?

Suppose a Law enacted, to render the Kings Power absolute in Part of his Dominions ; would it not be repugnant to the fundamental Principles of the Constitution and therefore void ?

Would not every Member of Parliament who voted for such a Law, incur the Guilt of high Treason against the State ?

Would not the Minister, who advised his Sovereign to give his Consent to it, be equally guilty ?

Would not the People throughout his Dominions be justified, were they to rise up, as one Man, and, oppose the Execution of such a Law ?

Is not the Kings Power in Canada, by a late Law of the British Parliament, rendered as absolute, as that of an Asiatic Despot ?

Are not ALL concerned in Government there, whether in the legislative or executive Departments, appointed by the Crown, paid by the Crown, and removeable at Pleasure ?

If Despotism is established in Canada, why may it not, by another Law be established in all the Colonies upon this Continent ?

The Idea is horrible ! and it is with inexpressible Anguish I proceed to ask :

If the Acts of Parliament relative to these Colonies, especially

for these ten Years past, are not, almost all of them, calculated to subjugate the Inhabitants; to a legislative Power in which they have no share ?

Can Property be secure, or the People free, who are subjected to a legislative Power in which they have no Share, and over which they have no Controul? Is not, this, a compleat Definition of a despotic Government ?

Are not *Americans* equally intitled with *Britons*, to be governed by those Laws only, to which they have given their Consent, either personally, or by Representation ?

Is it not a *natural Right*, given by God to Man with Life, & therefore as unalienable as Life it Self ?

Is it not a *civil Right*, stipulated and secured to the Subject, not only by Magna Charta, but by all those Statutes, Compacts, Covenants & Agreements, by and between the Sovereign and Subject, upon which the Constitution is founded ; and therefore as indefeazable as the Rights of the Crown ?

Does it not, therefore, necessarily follow, that as Allegiance and Protection are reciprocal, so Legislation and Representation are inseparable ?

Has not the rapid increase of the Colonies in Numbers and Property been owing as much, at least to the Peoples equal Share in their respective Legislatures, as to the natural Advantages of their Soil and Climate ?

Had they not from the beginning enjoyed this inestimable Privilege, would not this extensive Continent have remained a Desart still or been possessed by the Subjects of some other European Power ?

Were they by Force or Fraud to be deprived of it, would not the Country soon become again a howling Wilderness ?

Has not the Increase and Prosperity of the Colonies greatly contributed, to the Wealth and Grandeur of the Nation, and the distinguished Rank she sustains among the Powers of the World ?

Have the Colonies, either unitedly or seperately, renounced their Allegiance to their Sovereign ; or by any Misconduct forfeited their Claim to his Protection, and lost those Rights and Privileges, which were granted and secured to them by their respective Charters ?

If they have not, why are their repeated humble Petitions to the Throne disregarded, and the Prayer of them ungranted ?

Before their Patience was worn out, by repeated Provocations, and unparalleled Injuries : — Did the Colonies ever discover any want of Attachment to the Parent State ?

As a dutifull Son, settled at a Distance from his Fathers House considers it as his *Home* : — Have not the Colonies, in like manner considered England as their *Home* ; and behaved towards the Parent State, with most cordial and filial Affection ?

Have they not even rejoiced in her Prosperity, sympathized with her in Adversity, and occasionally afforded her Aid, even beyond their Abilities ? — And, has she not been so sensible of this, as more than once, to remunerate them for their extraordinary Services ?

Has not the Protection of the Colonies, *exaggerated as it is*, been more than compensated, by the Profits of an exclusive Commerce ?

Is not the Claim, therefore, of the British House of Commons to *give and grant* the Property of their American fellow Subjects, *without their Consent*, repugnant to every Idea of natural Equity and Justice ?

Are we Bastards, and not Children, that a Prince, who is celebrated as the best of Kings, has given his Consent to so many and such unprecedented & oppressive Acts of Parliament, as, if carried into Execution, must eventually render the Condition of his *American Subjects* no better than that of *Slaves* to his *British Subjects* ?

Are they not so disgracefully humiliating, as no Society of Men would submit to, who had any sense of Freedom, — the least Spark of Virtue, or any Power of Resistance ?

Is not the enforcing the Execution of them, with Fleets and Armies, as inhumane as it is unjust ?

Who are answerable for all the horrid Consequences of a long and bloody civil War ? — They who from Motives of Avarice and Ambition, attack ; or They who from a Principle of Selfpreservation defend ?

If the seat of Government was transferred from Britain to America ; and an American House of Commons were to give and grant the Property of their British fellow Subjects, without their Consent, would they not loudly, as well as justly, Complain of such Treatment as arbitrary & oppressive ?

Can They do that, justly, which upon a supposed Change of Situation and Circumstances, they would with reason complain of, as in the highest Degree unjust ?

Will not the Subversion of the American Constitutions of Government, and subjugating the People to an arbitrary Jurisdiction, produce, sooner or later, the same Effects in every other Part of the King's Dominions ?

When the Sovereign's Power over his American Dominions becomes absolute, will not Americans, from a spirit of just Resentment, endeavor to extend it over the whole Empire ?

Will not an immense American Revenue, at the disposal of a corrupt and corrupting Administration, easily effect such a Plan of universal Despotism ?

Can Britons, therefore, who have for Ages been the successful Defenders of civil and religious Liberty, remain any longer silent Spectators, of the hostile Measures that are pursuing in America ; or unconcerned about the Event of them ?

If they are, may we not venture to foretel, without the spirit of Prophecy, that it will not be much longer they will remain a FREE PEOPLE ?

If you should find it as difficult to excuse me, as I find it to apologize for the Errors & Imperfections of so long a Letter, I shall be heartily sorry I have wrote it : But, if it meets with so favorable a Reception, as in Return you will please to gratify me with your own Sentiments respecting the present Controversy, between the Parent State and these Colonies, I shall not only be greatly obliged, but promise you, that no Extracts from them shall be communicated to the Publick ; nor to any, but such of your Friends as you shall be pleased to point out : — Indeed, there is no Injunction you can lay upon me, that I would not cheerfully comply with, rather than be deprived of an entertaining and instructive Epistle from you, as often as you can spare Time to bestow such an inestimable Favor upon,

Your most obliged and obedient Servant

JOS^d QUINCY.

Doctor FRANKLIN.

P: S: I have desired my son communicate to you any Part of my L^r to him which he thinks worthy your Notice.

(Superscription.)

To Doctor FRANKLIN in Craven Street London.

pr Fav^r: of Fran: } Q.D.C.
Dana Esqr: }

CAMBRIDGE, NEW ENGLAND, 28 March 1775.

DEAR SIR, — I did my self the honor to write you, 13 Sept^r last, by Mr Quincy, acknowledging the receipt of several curious Pamphlets, for which am much obliged to you, and beg the favor of you to present my respectful Compliments to Sir John Pringle, and Mr Henley, for the particular honor they have done me, in sending me their curious Productions. Since that, I have received the last Vol. of the Philosophical Transactions, for which I return you my thanks. — I must confess, I was not a little mortified, when I opened the package, in not finding a line from my ever honored Friend, whose correspondence always gives me the greatest pleasure. Whether it were occasioned by the multiplicity of most important affairs, in which I know you are involved; or, whether any Letter of yours has been intercepted, I am not able to say. My suspicion of the last has been strengthened by the circumstances, in which the last Vol. of Transactions came to my hand. It was only tied up loosely in a brown paper cover, without any seal.

However the case may be, I cannot neglect so good an opportunity as now offers, of paying my respects to you. My neighbour, Francis Dana, Esq, is embarking for London. He was a Gentleman of the Law in this town, while there was any Law; — a modest, sensible, intelligent person, and a true Friend to Liberty. He had the firmness to oppose the address to Mr. H. when it was in agitation among the Lawyers. I need say nothing of the situation of our public affairs, as Mr. Dana will be able to give you full information. I cannot, however, forbear observing, to the honor of the people of this Province, that ever since the resignation of the Mandamus Councilors, they have been as quiet and peaceable as any Colony on the Continent, tho' under a total suspension of government, and an accumulation of grievances. We are now in a state of the most anxious suspense, but preparing for the worst, — God send better times!

I have desired Mr Dana to deliver you 52s sterl. for another annual payment to the Royal Society.

With sentiments of the highest respect and esteem

I am, Sir, Your most obliged humble Servt.

JOHN WINTHROP.

(Superscribed)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Esq., London.

Favored by FRA: DANA, Esq.

BOSTON, N. E. 1 Apr. 1775.

DEAR SIR, — I wrote you in Sept^r & Aug[:] last, and it is a great while indeed since I have had the Pleasure of a Line from you. The Anxiety and Distress bro't upon us by the Port Bill and other Acts, and the Troops and Ships of War station'd here have been great; and much Art & Pains have been employ'd to dismay us, or provoke us to some rash Action, but hitherto the People have behav'd with an astonishing Calmness and Resolution. The Union and Firmness of this and the other Colonies have rather grown than diminished; and they seem prepar'd for all Events. Had I not learn'd in these Days to wonder at nothing, I should have been surpriz'd at the Inconsistency of the Manner in which the Petition from the Congress was receiv'd, & Lord Dartmouth's Circular Letter to the Governors on that Subject. It will however have no Effect, as one directly contrary to the Views of Administration. The Colonies highly approve the Proceedings of the Congress, and have voted Delegates for the new one in May. The Assembly at N. York forbore an express Approbation; but have resolv'd almost all the Acts complain'd of by the Congress to be Grievances, and County Assemblies in that Province will probably by a large Majority appoint Delegates for the approaching Congress. One would have imagin'd that Ministerial Influence and Bribes would have had a much greater Effect upon that Province than has hitherto appear'd.

We have heard that the merchants & manufacturers of Britain are petitioning on our, or rather their own Behalf — that no more Troops are to be sent; and the Acts likely to be repeal'd: Other Accounts from your Side the Water say, that the same or similar Measures will still be pursued — The Determination here seems to be, not to abate our Vigilance, and to act as tho' we expected no Favor till adequate Relief is granted. — I send this by a safe hand, Mr Dana, a Gentleman of the Law, much esteem'd here, and tho' a nephew of Judge Trowbridge, a firm Friend to the Liberties of his Country. He carries with him Papers containing particular Accounts of our Affairs, and I think you may rely on his Representations. He can inform you minutely of Things that have taken place since Mr Quincy left us, & of our present State.

I hope it will not be long before my Country will find itself in a Situation to give some Testimony of it's Sense of your great Services to it, & Sufferings in it's cause.

With the most respectful & warm Attachment, I am Sir,

Your obedt humb. Servant

SAML COOPER.

Dr. FRANKLIN.

(Superscribed)

To BENJN. FRANKLIN Esqr. LL.D. F.R.S. London.

BOSTON, April 3rd, 1775.

SIR, — Altho' I have not the pleasure either of a personal or epistolary acquaintance with you, I have taken the liberty of sending you by Mr Dana a pamphlet which I wish was more deserving of your notice. The ability and firmness with which you have defended the Rights of Mankind and the Liberties of this Country in particular have rendered you dear to all America. May you soon see your enemies deprived of the power of injuring you, and your friends in a situation to discover the grateful sense they have of your exertions in the cause of freedom.

I am, Sir, with the greatest esteem and respect,

Your most obedient humble servant

JOSEPH WARREN.

Doctor FRANKLIN.

(Superscribed)

Doctor BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, London.

Pr favr. Mr DANA.

The President exhibited an ancient Bible from the old mansion of the Winthrop Family in New London, Conn., richly bound in massive silver, elaborately wrought and engraved.

Mr. ROBBINS (C.) read a communication from Dr. John Appleton, relating to a volume of ancient almanacs in the library of the Society.

Almanacs in the Reign of Queen Anne.

There is, in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a volume containing fourteen different almanacs for the year 1707; commencing with the "Ladies' Diary or the Women's Almanack," being the fourth number issued of that annual.

The volume is in binding of the early part of the last century, with gilt edges, and ornamented on the back and at the corners with the royal cipher, surmounted by the crown; and

may possibly have been a presentation-copy to Queen Anne from the Company of Stationers.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the sole right of printing almanacs was possessed by James Roberts and Richard Watkins: but the Stationers' Company obtained (Oct. 29, 1603) the royal letters-patent for the sole printing of Primers, Psalms, Almanacs, &c., in English; and a renewal of their charter, securing to them the same privilege, was granted March 8, 1615-16 (Nicholson, iii. 570, 573, 574). This right was held by the company for many years; and all the almanacs in this volume bear the imprint of different publishers as printers "for the Company of Stationers."

The "Ladies' Diary" was, as far as we know, the first work of the kind ever published; and was established by Mr. John Tipper of Coventry in the year 1704, and conducted by him until 1713. He was succeeded as editor in 1714 by Henry Beighton, under whose charge it remained until his death in 1743 or '44. Robert Heath assumed the care of the work after the death of Beighton, and was followed by Thomas Simpson in 1754, by Edward Rollinson in 1761, and by Dr. Hutton from 1773 to 1818. Dr. Olinthus Gregory conducted the almanac from the last-mentioned year until his death in 1840; and, in the succeeding year, "the Ladies' Diary" was united with "the Gentleman's Diary;" and the almanacs are still published, as one work, under the title of "the Lady's and Gentleman's Diary."

In the "Original Letters of Eminent Literary Men," published by the Camden Society, are several letters from Mr. Tipper, the projector and first editor of the "Ladies' Diary," to Humphrey Wanley, giving an account of his plan, and relating many curious facts connected with the establishment of the work. He says in the first of these letters, "I come now to tell you an affair of my own; viz., that this year will be published of mine (on Tuesday come sevensnight) an Almanack, called the Ladies Diary or the Woman's Almanack,

designed for the sole use of the Female Sex. . . . This being the first Almanack printed peculiar for the Fair Sex, and under the Reign of a Glorious Queen, some would advise me to dedicate it to the Queen." In conclusion, he asks the advice of Wanley as to the form of dedication.

In his next letter, he enters more fully into the details of his plan, and gives the contents of the proposed work, with the title, which follows: "The Lady's Diary or Women's Almanack, containing Directions of Love and Marriage, of Cookery, Preserving, Perfumery, Bills of Fare for every month, and many other things peculiar to the Fair Sex." He announces that the title-page is to be ornamented with "the portrait of the Queen in copper," "which," he says, "I am promised shall be (and I hope now is) very well performed." The portrait, which appears on the title-page of the almanac for 1707, would hardly seem to realize the expectations of the writer.

The title of the almanac in this volume is, "The Ladies' Diary, or the Women's Almanack, for the Year of our Lord 1707. Being the Third Year after the Leap Year. Containing many Delightful and Entertaining Particulars, peculiarly adapted for the Use and Diversion of The FAIR-SEX. Being the Fourth Almanack ever Publish'd of that kind." The remainder of the page is occupied by the portrait of Queen Anne, "in copper," around which are the following adulatory lines:—

- "1. Thy Sacred Head encircling Glories bind,
Thou lovel'st Pattern of the Charming kind.
2. Fate has already writ thy Wond'rous Name
The foremost *Heroine* in the Rolls of Fame.
3. And of thy Praise all Europe loudly Rings,
Greatest of WOMEN, and the best of QUEENS.
4. Oh, mighty ANNE! so Great is grown thy NAME
It doth so *cram* and *stretch* the Mouth of *Fame*,
That when around th' Impetuous Blast is hurl'd,
It stuns BELIEF, and doth *Amaze* the WORLD!"

Immediately following the title-page is an address "to the Charming Fair," and on the opposite page a brief chronology of famous women, exhibiting a curious selection of names from sacred and profane history, as the list includes Eve, Semiramis, Deborah, Helena, Penelope, Jephthah's daughter, Delilah, the Queen of Sheba, Susannah, Judith, Esther, Lucretia, Sappho, Cleopatra, Roxana, Boadicea, the Lady Godiva, Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Anne.

This table would appear to have been inserted at the instance of Mr. Wanley; as Tipper, in a letter written in July, 1704, in reference to the preparation of the second number of the diary, says, "I shall fill one page with a Chronology of famous women, according to your directions last year." He goes on to give the names which he proposed to mention, and adds to the above list Jael, the Virgin Mary, and Lot's wife, from Scripture history. He says, however, "The ages of Susannah and Judith, and of the rest that follow (except the two last Queens), I cannot yet find out."

The Chronological Table is followed by an explanation of the nature of an eclipse of the moon; the calendar-pages; receipts for preserving, candying, and conserving, and, in the words of the author, "to keep things good a long time."

The second part contains a continuation of the History of Famous Women; the lives of Boadicea, Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Anne being given in this number. Of the last sovereign it is said, that "Her Reign has been little else than a continual series of the successes of her Fleets and Armies, or else perpetual Instances of her amazing Goodness." . . . The writer asks, "When shall our wonder cease? when will this inimitable Pattern of more than humane Goodness give us a Moment's Respite from our Admiration?"

Then follows an account of a "Short Entertainment performed by the *Blew-Coat Boys* of Babblelake Hospital in Coventry," under the author's charge, on the day of thanksgiving for victories in Flanders and Spain, which is in the

same strain of panegyric as the preceding eulogium. In the course of the performance, one of the boys apostrophizes the queen thus:—

“To speak thy Worth, to celebrate thy Praise,
Is Work for Laureats, not for Blew-Coat Boys.”

The almanac concludes with several enigmas, and an account of the ages, &c., of the crowned heads of Europe.

The titles of the other almanacs in this volume are as follows:—

2. 1707. *Apollo Anglicanus: The English Apollo.* . . With . . a Twofold Kalendar, viz. Julian or English, and Gregorian or Foreign Computations . . . By Richard Saunder, Student in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences. London, printed by J. Wilde for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

3. *Remarkable News from the Stars: or, an Ephemeris for the Year 1707* . . . By William Andrews, Student in Astrology . . . London, printed by J. Wilde for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

4. *ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΣ: or, a Diary (Astronomical, Astrological, Meteorological) for the Year of our Lord, 1707* . . . By Job Gadbvry, Student in Physick and Astrologie . . . London, printed by T. W. for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

5. *Angelus Britannicus.* An Ephemeris for the Year of our Redemption 1707. . . . By John Tanner, Student in Physic and Astrology. The One and Fiftieth Impression. . . . London, printed by R. Janeway for the Company of Stationers.

6. *Vox Stellarum.* Being an Almanack for the Year of Human Redemption 1707. . . . By Francis Moore, Licens'd Physician, and Student in Astrology. . . . London, printed by T. Hodgkin for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

7. *Merlinus Anglicus Junior: or, the Starry Messenger for the Year of our Redemption 1707.* . . . By Henry Coley, Student in the Mathematicks and the Cœlestial Science. London, printed by Eleanor Everingham for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

8. *Astrologus Britannicus: or, an Almanack for the Year of our Redemption, 1707.* . . . By Richard Gibson, Student in Astrology. . . . London, printed by Thomas Wilmer for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

9. *Merlinus Liberatus*: Being an Almanack for the Year of our Blessed Saviour's Incarnation, 1707. . . . By John Partridge, Student in Physick and Astrology at the *Blue Ball* in *Salisbury Street* in the *Strand*, London. . . . London, printed by Mary Roberts for the Company of Stationers.

10. *Poor Robin*, 1707. An Almanack of the Old and New Fashion. . . . Containing a Two-Fold Calendar. *Viz.*: The Old, Honest, Julian, or English Account, and the Round-heads, Whimzey-heads, Maggot-heads, Paper-sculld, Slender-witted, Shallow-brain'd, Muggletonian, or Fanatick Account, with their several Saints Days, &c. . . . Written by Poor Robin, Knight of the Burnt Island, a Well-willer to the Mathematicks. The Five and Fortieth Impression. . . . London: printed by W. Bowyer for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

11. *The English Chapman's and Traveller's Almanack* for the Year of Christ, 1707. London, printed by Tho. James for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

12. *Pond*.* An Almanack for the Year of our Lord God 1707. . . . Cambridge. Printed for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

13. ΟΑΥΜΝΙΑ ΔΩ'ΜΑΤΑ, or, an Almanack for the Year of our Lord God 1707. . . . By John Wing, Mathemat. Cambridge, Printed for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

14. *Dove. Speculum Anni*, or, an Almanack for the Year of our Lord God 1707. . . . Cambridge, printed for the Company of Stationers, 1707.

Of these almanacs, the "*Apollo Anglicanus*" alone has a double calendar, giving the day of the month in accordance with both the Julian and Gregorian styles. "*Poor Robin*" directs the shafts of his ridicule against the "Roundheads," and places opposite to the "red-letter days" of the Gregorian Calendar, near the date of their death, the names of prominent members of the Parliamentary party during the civil war, as the "saints" of this party. Among these we find "*Leveling Ludlow*," Miles Corbet, "*Mewson the Cobler*," Muggleton, "*Nose Oliver*," Bradshaw, Harrison, Cook, Adrian Scroop, Rainsborough, and Ireton.

* *Pond's Almanac* was published as early as 1610.

Partridge's Almanac, "*Merlinus Liberatus*," on the other hand, distinguishes the year as "the Eighteenth of our Deliverance by K. William from Popery and Arbitrary Government: but the Eleventh from the Horrid Popish Jacobite Plot. In which is contained things fitting for such a Work." . . "With some Advice to the *Jacobite* Conjuror, that put *Perkin* in among the Royal Family, and called him P. of Wales."

The astrological predictions, which occupy a considerable space in most of the almanacs of this year, show the great influence which the occult science still retained in the popular mind; and the following extracts would almost seem to have reference to our own times.

Gibson, in his "*Astrologus Britannicus*," says, "The three Superior Planets are in friendly Aspect to each other, and there is a great *Concilium* in the Eleventh House, the House of Hope and Friendship; this will (no doubt) make a noise of Trucing and Treating for Peace and Pacification, but with what Sincerity and Success, we can't well Divine; we wish it may be such as our Enemies get no advantage by, for the Eclipse is in Conjunction with old *Chronus*, Lord of the Seventh House, and therefore Significatour of our publick Enemies, who are here represented implacable and mischievous, tho' now (being necessitated) they put on the Mask of Friendship. Let care be taken that we suffer no surprize of Ships in a Road or Harbour; but rather let us endeavour that Disgrace to our Enemies."

Tanner's "*Angelus Britannicus*" contains the following: "It is to be observed that these Configurations are celebrated in the Houses of Mercury, and he newly direct, as fitted for Action, which probably may stir up a busy sort of Men, in contriving Plots, false and scandalous Libels to disturb the State, corrupting the minds of the unwary, and, as much as in them lies, to distract the well-meaning; all carried on by Projects of Peace and fair Pretences, to cover dangerous and pernicious Designs. And probably we may hear of some

Overtures from foreign Parts, and all good Men would gladly hear and accept of a Peace, in a ripe and due Season, firm and well grounded; but not precipitately, till Matters are so well concerted and firmly grounded, that the grand Disturber of Europe have no more power left him to disturb his peaceable Neighbours."

Mr. NORTON, in communicating extracts from an Orderly Book of the Revolutionary Army, remarked as follows: —

In February last, a large collection of books, and a few manuscripts, autographs, pictures, engravings, and coins, were advertised for sale by auction in Washington. It was announced, that a considerable number of the books had belonged to Washington, and contained his book-plate. This announcement excited both interest and suspicion: for it was well known that the larger part of Washington's library was in possession of the Boston Athenæum; while the larger part of the remainder of it, probably, still belonged to his collateral descendants. The books advertised, moreover, did not correspond with what was known of the books that had formed part of his library. It was thought advisable, however, by the Trustees of the Athenæum, that the Librarian of that institution should attend the sale, and should secure whatever genuine memorials of Washington, if any, might be obtained at it.

On an examination of the books, Mr. Poole, the Librarian, discovered that the claim made for the books, of having once belonged to Washington, was wholly unsupported by evidence; that the book-plate in many of the volumes, bearing the name George Washington, and the well-known motto, *Exitus acta probat*, was a poor and fraudulent copy of the genuine book-plate; and that the attempt to pass these books off as having formed part of Washington's library was apparently a deliberate and elaborate attempt to cheat the purchasers and the public. Mr. Poole and other experts

exposed the fraud at the sale, and the books sold at low prices, — for about what they were intrinsically worth.

But there were on the catalogue some articles of real interest and of genuine character. One of them was an Orderly Book of the Revolutionary Army, embracing the period from 18th May to June 11, inclusive, 1778. This was purchased by Mr. Poole for the Athenæum. It contains nothing of great historic importance; but it affords some interesting illustrations of the nature of the Revolutionary Army, and the character of its commanding general. The first order in the book is the publication to the army of the resolutions that had been adopted in Congress on the 15th of May;* according to which, officers were to receive half-pay for seven years after the war, and non-commissioned officers and privates eighty dollars each. It is well known that Congress had looked with jealousy on the establishment of a half-pay system; and that these resolutions, the result of a sort of compromise, had been passed only after long debates. On the same day on which these resolutions were published to the army, Washington, who had had the matter very much at heart, wrote to Gouverneur Morris concerning them, dating from Valley Forge: "Your favor of the 15th instant gave me singular pleasure. I thank you for the agreeable intelligence it contains, which, though not equal to my wishes, exceeded my expectations."† And to the President of Congress he wrote on the same day: —

"SIR, — I shall announce the resolution of the 15th to the army; and would flatter myself it will quiet, in a great measure, the uneasinesses which have been so extremely distressing, and prevent resignations which had proceeded, and were likely to be at such a height as to destroy our whole military system. It has experienced no considerable shock, particularly in the line of some States, from the loss of several very valuable officers."‡

* The date in the Orderly Book is, by mistake, May 1.

† Sparks's Writings of Washington, v. 370. — See also p. 384. ‡ Ibid., v. 373.

Washington published the resolutions to the army in the following words: "The Commander-in-chief has the pleasure to inform the army, that the Honorable Congress have been pleased to come to the following resolutions."

The Orderly Book contains the records of many court-martials. The following report is interesting, from the vigor of Washington's remarks on the vice of gaming, and on the sentence of the court: —

"At a brigade court-martial, whereof Lieutenant-Colonel Crapper was President, Captain Edward Hull of the Fifteenth Virginia Regiment, tried for gaming when he ought to have been on the parade, the 12th instant, unanimously found guilty of that part of the charge exhibited against him relating to gaming, but acquitted of non-attendance on the parade, and sentenced to be reprimanded by the commanding officer of the brigade in the presence of all the officers thereof.

"At the same court, Lieutenant Thomas Lewis of the same regiment, tried upon a similar charge, found guilty, and sentenced the same as Captain Hull.

"The Commander-in-chief, however unwilling to dissent from the judgment of a court-martial, is obliged utterly to disapprove these sentences; the punishment being, in his opinion, entirely inadequate to the offence. A practice so pernicious in itself as that of gaming, so prejudicial to good order and military discipline; so contrary to positive and repeated general orders, carried to so enormous a height as it appears, and aggravated — certainly in the case of Lieutenant Lewis — by an additional offence of no trifling military consequence, — absence from parade, — demanded a much severer penalty than simply a reprimand.

"Captain Hull and Lieutenant Lewis are to be released from arrest."

Under date of 26th May occurs the following order: —

"A sub-sergeant, corporal, and eight men, with the commissary from each brigade, are to be sent immediately into the vicinity of their respective brigades to seize the liquors they may find in the unlicensed tippling-houses. The commissaries will give receipts for the liquors they shall seize, and notify the inhabitants, or persons living in the vicinity of camp, that an unconditional seizure will be made of all liquors they shall presume to sell in future."

Here is another order, relating to the sanitary condition of the camp : —

“Officers are to see that the mud-plastering around the huts be removed, and every other method taken to render them as airy as possible : they will also have the powder of a musket cartridge burnt in each hut daily, to purify the air ; or a little tar, if it can be procured.” *

Flogging was a punishment frequently inflicted upon soldiers convicted before a court-martial. On 29th May, for example, William Whiteman, wagoner, was convicted of desertion, and sentenced to receive sixty lashes ; and John Clime was sentenced to receive two hundred lashes for desertion, attempting to escape to the enemy, and for stealing a horse.

Toward the end of May, and at the beginning of June, numerous orders appear, directed to getting the army into condition for a rapid march, and change of camp, — orders relating to the sick ; to the supplies of stores, equipage, and transportation ; to the order of march, of which the “standing model” is given at great length.

On the 3d June, “Thomas Shanks, on full conviction of his being a spy in the service of the enemy, before a board of general officers, held yesterday, by order of the Commander-in-chief, is adjudged worthy of death : he is therefore to be hanged to-morrow morning at guard-mounting, at some convenient place near the grand parade.”

On the 7th June, the resolves of Congress respecting the establishment of the American Army, passed on the 27th and 29th May and 2d June, were published to the army, and all officers directed “to be careful to make themselves well acquainted with the establishment, and govern themselves accordingly.”

* In Sparks's Writings of Washington, v. 524, is an extract from the Orderly Book, of Dec. 18, 1777, concerning the construction of the huts at Valley Forge. The sides were to be “made tight with clay.”

On the 29th May, Washington had written to President Laurens : —

“ I sincerely wish the military arrangement to be completed. The delay is attended with great inconvenience and injury. While it remains open, our whole system cannot but be imperfect. I know that Congress have a variety of important matters to call their attention ; but, I assure you, there are few, if any, more interesting than this.” — *Sparks's Writings of Washington*, v. 384.

On the 11th June, the following order was published : —

“ Some misunderstanding, and mistakes in consequence, having arisen with respect to the major-generals' commands, the Commander-in-chief directs, that till a more perfect arrangement can be made under the new establishment, or till further orders on this head, each major-general is to command the division heretofore assigned him previous to the late disposition for a march ; but in case of an alarm, or any other general movement of the army, the three oldest major-generals present, and fit for duty, are, during the occasion, to command the right and left wings and second line of the army, agreeable to the general order of the 23d of May last.”

This order seems to have occasioned some dissatisfaction ; and General Charles Lee addressed a remonstrance against it to Washington. Washington's reply to Lee, and defence of the order as “ the best that circumstances will admit of,” is to be found in *Sparks's Writings of Washington*, v. 404.

The Orderly Book from which the foregoing extracts have been taken contains seventy-nine pages, and its contents are in various handwritings.

It is desirable that a list of the existing Orderly Books of the Revolution should be made ; and that their present owners' names should be recorded, as an assistance to students of the military system, discipline, and movements of that period.

Mr. Norton also read, and offered for the use of the Society, an original letter of General Washington : —

MIDDLE BROOK June 23^d: 1777.

DEAR SIR, Your favors of the 12th and 18th Inst. are both before me; and, on two accounts have given me concern, first, because I much wish'd to see you at the head of the Cavalry, and secondly by refusing of it, my arrangements have been a good deal disconcerted. As your motives for refusing the appointment are, no doubt, satisfactory to yourself, and your determination fixed, it is unnecessary to enter upon a discussion of the point — I can only add, I wish it had been otherwise, especially as I flatter myself that my last would convince you, that you still held the same place in my affection that you ever did. If Inclination, or a desire of rendering those aids to the Service which your abilities enable you to do, sh^d lead you to the Camp, it is unnecessary for me, I hope, to add, that I should be extremely happy in seeing you one of my Family whilst you remain in it.

The late Coalition of Parties in Pennsylvania is a most fortunate Circumstance; that, and the spirited manner in which the Militia of this State turned out upon the late Manœuvre of the Enemy, has, in my opinion, given a greater shock to the Enemy than any Event which has happend in the course of this dispute, because it was altogether unexpected, and gave the decisive stroke to their enterprize on Philadelphia.

The hint you have given respecting the Compliment due to the Executive powers of Pennsylvania I thank you for, but can assure you I gave General Mifflin no direction respecting the Militia that I did not conceive, nay that I had not been told, by Congress, he was vested with before; for you must know that Genl. Mifflin at the particular Instance, and by a resolve of Congress, had been detained from his duty in this Camp near a month to be in readiness to draw out the Militia if occasion should require it, & only got here the day before I received such Intelligence as convinced me that the Enemy were upon the point of moving; in consequence of which I requested him to return, and without defining his duty, desired he would use his utmost endeavours to carry the design'd opposition into effect; conceiving that a previous plan had been laid by Congress, or the State of Pens^a, so far as respected the mode of drawing the Militia out. The action of them afterward, circumstances alone could direct, I did not pretend to give any order about it.

It gives me pleasure to learn from your Letter that the reasons assigned by me to Genl. Arnold for not attacking the Enemy in their

situation between the Raritan & Milestone met with the approbation of those who were acquainted with them. We have some among us, — & I dare say Generals, — who wish to make themselves popular at the expence of others; or, who think the cause is not to be advanc'd otherwise than by fighting — the peculiar circumstances under which it is to be done, and the consequences which may follow, are objects too trivial for their attention, — but as I have one great end in view, I shall, maugre all the strokes of this kind, steadily pursue the means which, in my judgment, leads to the accomplishment of it, not doubting but that the candid part of mankind, if they are convinc'd of my integrity, will make proper allowances for my inexperience, and frailties. I will agree to be loaded with all the obloquy they can bestow, if I commit a wilful error.

If General Howe has not manœuvred much deeper than most people seem disposed to think him capable of, his army is absolutely gone off panic struck; but as I cannot persuade myself into a belief of the latter, notwithstanding it is the prevailing opinion of my officers, I cannot say that the move I am about to make towards Amboy accords altogether with my opinion, not that I am under any other apprehension than that of being obliged to lose ground again, which would indeed be no small misfortune, as the spirits of our Troops, & the Country, is greatly reviv'd, and (I presume) the Enemy's not a little depress'd, by their late retrograde motions.

By some late accounts, I fancy the British Grenadiers got a pretty severe peppering yesterday by Morgan's Rifle Corps — they fought, it seems, a considerable time within the distance of from twenty, to forty yards; and from the concurring accounts of several of the officers, more than an hundred of them must have fallen.

Had not there been some mistake in point of time for marching the several Brigades that were ordered upon that Service, & particularly in delivering an Order to Genl. Varnum, I believe the Rear of Genl. Howe's Troops might have been a little rougher handled than they were, or if an Express who was sent to Genl. Maxwell the Evening before had reached him in time, to co-operate upon the Enemy's flank, for which purpose he was sent down the day before with a respectable force, very good consequences might have resulted from it; however it is too late to remedy these mistakes now, & my paper tells me I can add no more than to assure you that I am

Dr Sir, Yr. affect.

G^o: WASHINGTON.